

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

E3
SAB E1
Claim 1. (Four times amended) A negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is composed of graphite material for occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed or is coated with a single molecular layer of surface active material that (1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of starch derivatives having a basic repeating unit structure of $C_6H_{10}O_5$; viscous polysaccharides having a basic repeating unit structure of $C_6H_{10}O_5$; water-soluble cellulose derivatives having a basic repeating unit structure $C_6H_{10}O_5$, and water-soluble synthetic resins.

E4
Claim 12. (Thrice amended) The negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble synthetic resins are selected from the group consisting of water-soluble acrylic resin, water-soluble epoxy resin, water-soluble polyester resin, and water-soluble polyamide resin.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.